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been afraid to give evidence of the outrages which have been perpetrated on them, lest they should expose themselves to a repetition of similar acts of violence. Thus it would require the authority of a parliamentary commission sitting in Ireland, armed with the powers of compel-

ling evidence, to search into the facts connected with a system dangerous to the safety of individuals, and if not timely and effectually restrained, likely to produce the greatest dangers, by erecting a fourth estate independent of the controul and restraining power of parliament.

CORRESPONDENCE ON SUBJECTS CONNECTED WITH THE RETROSPECT OF POLITICS.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

ON receipt of your last Magazine, I immediately wrote to a friend in Kilkeel, whom I knew to be totally unconnected with the parties that have lately agitated the country, and have received the following account, on the correctness of which you may confidently rely.

It appeared that about three or four o'clock in the afternoon of the 9th of Feb. a number of Catholics (supposed to be organized, and mostly from the country,) were collected in Kilkeel, and taken into neighbouring back-yard, where spirits were distributed among them. After this, they proceeded down street, and over the bridge, in an irregular mass, with a design, as was supposed, to raise a riot, or to wreck M^cKibbin's house. After passing the pedlars' stands, they met with Newell, whom Cunningham, the leader of the Catholic party, challenged to box. Newell accepted of the challenge, and they began to box immediately. The Catholic party were brought forward in mass, and Newell and his friends disappeared. The Catholics then proceeded to wreck M^cKibbin's house. M^cKibbin being somewhat prepared (his house having suffered on a former occasion, by a similar party,) fired two or three shots from the house, which had the desired effect of making them retreat.

They then re-crossed the bridge and marched to the market-place, where they attacked indiscriminately, a number of Protestant people, some of whom, though they had not attempted opposition, they beat in a most shocking manner.

In the mean time, Newell and his party rallied, and having provided themselves with military arms and ammunition, advanced over the bridge, and to the market-place, firing irregularly on the crowd in general. In a few minutes, the streets

were cleared, the whole people making off in all directions, some into houses, some through lanes, and the greater number along the lanes leading from the town. By this time it was getting dark, and hopes were entertained that all was over, and that the town would now be quiet. However, Newell's party, by this time, had become strong; and not satisfied with what they had done, began, after a pause of about half an hour, to demolish the front windows of all the Catholic houses in the town, three or four excepted. They also destroyed entirely the liquor, shop, and furniture of one Catholic publican, and the shop and liquor of another. Happily, however, no lives were lost in this unfortunate business. One Catholic received a ball through his arm; and a Protestant woman received one through her nose. The damages have been mostly ascertained; and the amount has been laid on the parish at large.

I am yours truly,

AN OBSERVER.

The pages of the Belfast Magazine will be open to additional accounts, either in corroboration or contradiction of the foregoing statement. It is the wish of the proprietors, to lay the evidence with which they may be favoured on both sides impartially before the public. At present comment is forborne, further than to hint to our correspondents, as points desirable to ascertain, whether any magistrates were in or near the town at the time of the commencement and continuation of the riot, and whether any exertions were used on their part to prevent the Yeomanry from bringing their arms to be employed, not as suppressors of the riot, but as chief actors in it; and also, whether the houses of the Catholics wrecked by the Yeomen, did not belong to persons, who had taken no share in the previous riot. In the preceding account no notice is taken of the transaction at Mourne Park the succeeding day, when a number of persons were fired at, as they were passing along the road.